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NSC BRIEFING

20 August 1958

BACKGROUND: CHICOM AND CHINAT MILITARY STRENGTHS

	<u>Communists</u>	<u>Nationalists</u>
<u>Total Ground Forces</u> (divisions)	2,600,000 (176)	450,000 (43)
of which in East China	568,000	-----
of which Matsu area	48,000	23,000
Quemoy area	80,000	36,000
<u>Air Force (including Naval Air Force)</u>		
Total aircraft	2,880	820
Jet Fighters	1,700	450
Jet bombers (IL-28)	440	1
Piston bombers (TU-2)	165	9
Piston med. bombers (TU-4)	20	---
Patrol bombers	0	10
<u>Naval Forces</u>		
Submarines	17	0
Long Range	9	---
Medium Range	4	---
Short Range	4	---
Destroyers	4	4
Destroyer escorts	4	5
Patrol escorts	16	11
Sub chaser	25	18
Motor gun boat	8	2
Motor torpedo boat	110	1
Minesweepers	31	10

DOS REVIEW COMPLETED

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NSC BRIEFING**21 August 1958****POSSIBLE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

- I. There are some indications that a special conclave of high Soviet officials--possibly a party Central Committee meeting--is now underway in Moscow.
- A. The Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia, a member of the Central Committee, had departed his post as of 16 August.
- B. Khrushchev and two other members of the party presidium turned out at a Moscow gathering on 16 August. No presidium member has been identified in public since then.
- C. Khrushchev himself was scheduled to begin a vacation on the 16th. So far there is no confirmation of his having left Moscow.

- II. We would not normally expect a Central Committee plenum so soon after the last one, in mid-June.
- A. However, Ambassador Thompson has recently received a report, to which he gives a good deal of credence, that Khrushchev has been infuriated by all the speculation regarding differences between him and Mao. He is said to blame opponents within the regime for starting this speculation. Thompson believes that, if this information is correct, Khrushchev can be expected to take some drastic action to assert his authority.
- B. Discussion in the Central Committee of relations with China could provide the basis for the airing of any political grievances now troubling the regime.

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